

REMARKS

In the Office action, the abstract of the disclosure was objected to for using the term, "disclosed." The specification was objected to for allegedly failing to provide support for the term "shotgun" in claim 29. The Office action rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 19-21, 23-28, 32, 33-36, 38-39, 42-48, 56-59 and 60-63 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Deline et al. ("Deline") U.S. Patent No. 6,420,975; claims 1, 30-31, 64-68 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Finn et al ("Finn") U.S. Patent No. 6,535,609; claims 3-4 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Deline in view of Matsuo ("Matsuo") U.S. Patent No. 6,600,824; and claims 10-17, and 22-23 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Deline in view of Official Notice. The applicants respond as follows.

The applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 49-55 and that claims 7-8, 36-37, and 40-41 contain allowable subject matter. (Claim 36 was indicated as having allowable subject matter, but is recited in the rejections as well. Applicants assume the claim is allowable if rewritten in independent form, as indicated at page 9 of the Office action.)

Claims 1- 68 have been canceled.

New independent claim 69 recites generally the limitations of claim 7. As claim 7 was indicated as being allowable, new claim 69 and its dependent claims 70-103 are believed allowable.

New independent claim 105 recites generally the limitations of claim 37. As claim 37 was indicated as being allowable, new claim 105 and its dependent claims 106 - 120 are believed allowable.

New independent claim 121 recites generally the limitations of claim 49. As claim 49 was indicated as being allowable, new claim 121 and its dependent claims 122-127 are allowable.

The newly presented claims are directed to subject matter indicated in the action to be allowable. No new matter was added. Support for the new claims may be found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally presented, as indicated above.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. The number of new claims, 3 independent and 56 dependent does not exceed the number of claims originally filed, as such, no fees are believed due. If a fee is due, the Commissioner is directed to charge Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


Jeffrey K. Berger

Registration No.: 51,460

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP

233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 6300

Sears Tower

Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357

(312) 474-6300

Agent for Applicant